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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 25 March 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the statement by the Permanent Representative of the United States of America on 18 March 1994, following the adoption of Security Council resolution 904 (1994), the Arab Group at the United Nations would like to reaffirm the general framework that determines the legal status of the Arab City of Jerusalem.

I. The point of departure is an established and undisputed historical fact, namely, that Arab Jerusalem is a part of the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

II. Numerous resolutions have been adopted by the Security Council, the General Assembly and other relevant bodies confirming this fact, among them Security Council resolutions 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 298 (1971) and 471 (1980), which state that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel in Jerusalem, including expropriation of land and properties, which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem are invalid and cannot change that status.

III. The Security Council, in its resolutions concerning the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the most recent being resolution 904 (1994) of March 1994, affirmed the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, of 12 August 1949, to the territories occupied by Israel in June 1967, including Jerusalem, and Israel's responsibility thereunder.

IV. The Security Council, in numerous resolutions, including resolution 478 (1980) of 30 August 1980, affirmed its non-recognition of what Israel termed "the basic law on Jerusalem", and the Council called upon those States which had established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw such missions from the Holy City.

The Arab Group at the United Nations affirms its confidence that all States Members of the United Nations will constantly strive to respect their international obligations arising out of the resolutions of the relevant organs, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the rules of international legitimacy.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Ahmed ELHOUDERI
Permanent Representative of
the Great Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the
United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group
for the current month